

NOTE

Another Generic Synonym Resulting from
Sexually Dimorphic Phoridae (Diptera):
Psyllomyia Loew (1857) and *Multinevra* Disney (1979)

Extreme sexual dimorphism among phorids has a long history of causing taxonomic confusion. Some examples of males and females described in different genera include *Bactropalpus* Borgmeier/*Trophodeinus* Borgmeier (Brown 1986. Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington, 88: 787-788), *Perissa* Borgmeier/*Couturiera* Disney (Disney 1990. Systematic Entomology, 15: 305-320), and *Gymnoselia* Schmitz/*Rhynchomicropterum* Anandale (Brown 1992. Journal of Natural History, 26: 407-416). In most instances, the females are of highly unusual structure, with reduced wings, reduced eyes and less extensive sclerotization of the abdominal tergites. Most of these unusual females are found in colonies of ants or termites.

Some specimens of African Phoridae recently sent to me for identification included pairs of individuals collected *in copula*. The male specimens are recognizable as *Multinevra macropygidia* Disney (1979. Entomologica Scandinavica, 10: 79-80), the only described species in this unusual and characteristic genus, which is known only from male specimens. The hitherto unknown females were specimens of the equally distinctive genus *Psyllomyia* Loew (1857. Wiener Entomologische Monatschrift, 1: 33-56), for which males were described briefly by Beyer (1965. Phoridae. Fascicule 99, Exploration de Parc National Albert, Mission G. F. de Witte 1933-1935). Thus, *Multinevra* Disney becomes a junior subjective synonym of *Psyllomyia* Loew (new synonymy). A resulting new combination is *P. macropygidia* (Disney).

Males and females of *Psyllomyia* are similar in appearance to other phorids that were mistakenly assigned to separate genera in the past. The males, which were described

thoroughly by Disney (1979) are larger, with fully developed wings, normal abdominal tergites, and large eyes. Their terminalia are particularly distinctive (illustrated by Disney 1979; Brown 1993. Memoirs of the Entomological Society of Canada, 164: 1-144), as are the multiple rows of longitudinal, enlarged setulae on the hind tibia. The females, illustrated by Schmitz (1951. Bollettino dell'Istituto di Entomologia della Università di Bologna, 18: 128-166), are somewhat limuoid in form, with reduced eyes, reduced body tergites, and wings reduced to small rudiments. A distinctive character of the females is the elongate, geniculate proboscis, which makes these flies appear similar to the unrelated genus *Rhynchomicropterum*. Like the males, females have multiple rows of longitudinal, enlarged setulae on the hind tibia.

Females of *Psyllomyia* were revised by Schmitz (1951), who recognized four species, all from Africa. The females associated with *P. macropygidia* key to *P. braunsi* Schmitz, but revision of the entire group and examination of the holotypes will be necessary to determine whether *P. braunsi* and *P. macropygidia* are synonyms. Undescribed species of both sexes exist in Africa, Thailand and Nepal (Brown 1993).

Material examined: *P. macropygidia* (Disney). Approximately 150 ♂, 7 ♀, BOTSWANA: Serowe, Farmer's Brigade, SE2226BD. Per Forchhammer, Malaise trap (in collection of Carnegie Museum of Natural History and Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County).

Brian V. Brown, *Entomology Section, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, 900 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90007.*